between the Economic Cost and the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) price varies variety-wise, quarter-wise, crop year-wise, etc.

Carrying cost of buffer stock in FCI

†1242. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the carrying cost of buffer stock in the Food Corporation of India was Rs. 1,655.30 per tonne during the Ninth Five Year Plan which is being assessed to be Rs. 2,631.20 per tonne during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for this increase in cost togetherwith the contribution of each of these reasons for increase in the cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The carrying cost of buffer stocks in the FCI is fixed year to year. However, for the years 1997-98 (BE) and 2002-03 (BE) the carrying cost of buffer is as under:—

	Rate Rs. per tonnes
1997-98 (BE)	1655.30
2002-03 (BE)	2631.20

(c) The increase in the carrying cost of buffer in 2002-03 (BE) in comparison to 1997-98 (BE) is due to:

(i) Inclusion of freight, transit shortages and carry-over charges on wheat being paid to the State Government and other agencies in the buffer carrying cost as per the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC). As a result of inclusion of these elements in the buffer carrying cost, the cost has increased by Rs. 82.70 per quintal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) The increase in Minimum Support Price (M.S.P.) of wheat and paddy in 2002-03 in comparison to 1997-98 and the resultant increase in *ad valorem* charges such as State taxes, levies and other incidentals have resulted in an increase in the acquisition cost of foodgrains. As a result of these costs, expenses on account of interest have increased by Rs. 24.18 per quintal during this period.

PSUs earmarked for disinvestment

1243. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of PSUs which have been earmarked for the next round of disinvestment during the year 2003-04;

(b) the number and names of PSUs out of the above, which have negative net worth and accumulated losses; and

(c) whether Government have invited bidders for these PSUs and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Implementation of the disinvestment programme depends on a variety of factors including market conditions, industry-wise business cycle fluctuations, interest of the prospective bidders, the adequacy of the price bid. Moreover, Government does not sell its equity holding in distress. In view of this, the PSUs in which disinvestment process will be completed during 2003-04 cannot be identified. Names of PSUs in which disinvestment decision has been taken and disinvestment is in progress is given in Statement-I. (*See* below). Twelve of these PSUs have negative worth and accumulated losses as on 31st March 2002, details of which are given in Statement-II. (*See* below) None of the cases have yet reached the stage of calling for financial bid.

Statement-I

Names of PSUs in which Disinvestment decision has been taken and disinvestment is in progress

1. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.